

# OUTGOING TELEGRAM

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## Department of State

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HR-m/BG 5/23/61*

Defense has provided us with copy of memorandum from JCS to SECDEFENSE on subject continuation of high altitude flights in Berlin corridors.

BEGIN SUMMARY:

1. JCS concerned over State pronouncement that further high altitude flights (repeat not) now planned in Berlin air corridors.
2. JCS recognizes importance political implications attendant on further high flights during Geneva discussions. Nevertheless JCS firmly believe flights should be reinstituted at earliest possible time on regular and frequent basis without restriction to visual flight conditions. By halting flights, Soviets in

position to exploit and proclaim correctness of statements that flights were instituted as provocative gestures without real operational requirement. US placed in position of explaining reasons for terminating flights, since we stated high flights operationally necessary.

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CLASSIFIED FILE

C-130

Typed by:

EUR:GMR:AGVigderman:al:all 6/2/59

Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by:

G - Robert Murphy

Clearances:

EUR- Mr. Kohler

BNA-Mr. Dale

WE- Mr. Cameron

S/S-Mr. Borg

SOV- Mr. Servied

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3. C-130 is primary theater logistic support aircraft in Europe. It designed have most efficient operation at high altitudes. Present situation precludes efficient and economical use available transport resources. Theater commander denied latitude of selection of best means available to accomplish his support mission for Berlin.
4. JCS recommend subject be discussed with SECSTATE at appropriate time in order obtain approval reinstitution high flights on regular and frequent basis. END SUMMARY

Irwin has text of memorandum and will discuss with McElroy who may raise question with SECSTATE.

Department recognizes force argumentation of JCS. Nevertheless, while present negotiations proceeding or future negotiations in prospect or proceeding, high altitude flights would undoubtedly become subject of Soviet propaganda exploitation, using theme that US had unilaterally changed status quo, after having warned Soviets that Soviet action changing status quo would damage possibility fruitful negotiations. Conceivable, however, that at some stage high altitude flights could have useful impact as demonstrating US firmness of purpose. This question of judgment to be appraised in light of developing circumstances.

If decision taken to make flights, British and French will expect to be advised in advance.

*Dillon*  
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